



TBOC Newsletter

Issue 7: September 2018

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SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Sacramento Update

Welcome to our first Sacramento Update! Rice/Englander & Associates feels privileged to be working with all of you and want to do everything we can to provide you with the most relevant and up-to-date information. Therefore, if there is something you would like us to discuss, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us! So without further ado, here is our inaugural update for your consideration:

"All these criminal justice bills that have passed in the last couple of years are really having a cumulative effect on how the public perceives their safety," said by bail industry lobbyist David Quintana. Quintana is speaking generally after the passing and signing of legislation, SB 10, that eliminates the use of bail in California, but the overall message regarding the direction Sacramento officials have taken with respect to public safety proposals is accurate. From the beginning of Governor Brown's most recent round as leader, starting with the so-called "Realignment" proposal that transferred wards of the state to local jails, through Propositions 47, 57 and numerous pieces of legislation there has, without question, been a pendulum swing away from incarcerating criminals. As a result, communities around the state have seen a measured, quantifiable uptick in crimes as a direct result of many of these policy changes.

One major proposed change that passed the Legislature in the final days of the legislative session and is currently awaiting a decision by the Governor is SB 1437 (Skinner), which seeks to retroactively change the long-standing felony murder rule.

Current law essentially allows for anyone involved in the commission of a felony where a murder is committed to be charged with a homicide. This bill changes that assumption, and would allow for persons previously convicted for murder under the current law to petition the court for a lessening of their conviction. This bill was one of the most fiercely fought bills in the waning days of the legislative session but ultimately secured the requisite votes to move to the Governor. He has until the end of September to determine the bills fate. If anyone has an interest in weighing in with the Governor on this important change we encourage them to do so ASAP.

In addition to the shift away from incarceration for a panoply of crimes that historically have been considered punishable offenses there has also been a tightening grip out of Sacramento about the way communities should go about policing. Without question, AB 931 (Weber) was the most hotly contested public safety legislative proposal this

year and would have fundamentally altered how police and law enforcement not only trained their personnel, but also would have exposed LE professionals to enhanced and unreasonable subjective scrutiny after an OIS. After intense pressure from law enforcement organizations and their allies the bill was amended in the final week of the session to remove the OIS scrutiny but still would have imposed significant requirements and major changes that many deemed untenable. In the final days of the session when it became clear that the votes were not there to secure final passage the leader of the State Senate, President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) issued the following press release:

“AB 931 has sparked one of the most urgently important debates of this legislative session.

“California’s current use-of-force standard is outdated and unconstitutional. It must be modified in a way that reduces preventable deaths and restores the public trust while balancing the ability of law enforcement to adequately protect the public safety.

“As the bill has moved through the legislative process, the author has worked diligently and in good faith with her colleagues and stakeholders to reach a workable consensus.

“Unfortunately, the legislative calendar does not provide the necessary time to clearly resolve the concerns that need to be addressed for the bill to pass the two legislative houses and get to the Governor’s desk for his signature. Therefore, we are holding the bill this year and will resume discussions this fall.

“Make no mistake: we have a critical problem that remains unaddressed. We need to end preventable deaths and to do so without jeopardizing the safety of law enforcement officers. I know that this is what the author, my friend, Assemblymember Shirley Weber is committed to achieve. I too am committed to this work from now until we return for the next legislative session to get this right and have a bill before the legislature in January that will make California a model for the rest of the country.”

As you can see, despite the bill being scuttled for the year there is an intense desire to continue work in this area, with the likely result being additional legislation introduced when the Legislature reconvenes. We will be ready to work with all parties to ensure local communities voices are heard and well represented!

Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have!

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Keeping Cal Safe Act Qualifies for 2020 Election

Hello everyone! Great news! The Keeping CA Safe Act has been officially added to

the November 2020 election. This piece of legislation is likely our best bet to enact real legislative fixes.

In the interim, Taking Back Our Community will be shifting our focus on continued education and outreach, and less involved in legislation. However, as we approach the November 2020 election, we will pick-up our legislative efforts, to help inform voters of the potential changes The Keeping CA Safe Act could implement. We will keep you updated of our efforts.

CA Secretary of State: [November 2020 Eligible Statewide Ballot Measures](#)

TBOC Reaches Its One Year Milestone!

Can you believe it? Taking Back Our Community has officially reached its one year milestone since formation. This time last year, we were preparing to attend the League of California Cities Annual conference and asking the League to list public safety as a priority with the passing of the Whittier resolution. While we were there, we also hosted a booth with the goal of bringing awareness to the Coalition and its objectives. To date, we have 39 members and we are still growing! Thank you to all for your continued support!

As we move forward, we would like to thank all of the TBOC members. At this time we have enough funds to fund our public outreach and education campaign, therefore we will not be seeking any annual renewal dues. The coalition however still continues to draw interest from prospective cities inquiring about membership; new members will still be required to pay the \$1,500 membership to join.



League of California Cities Annual Conference, Sacramento, September 2017

Steering Committee Update

As Taking Back our Community moves on to its second year, we would like to extend an invitation to all member cities that would like to get more involved to join the steering committee. Chris Jeffers, former City Manager of Glendora, one of the founding cities of the coalition and member of the steering committee has retired. The Coalition congratulates Chris on his retirement and thanks him for his years of service, but with his departure there remains a seat(s) open for any City Manager that would like to step in and become more involved. If this interests you, please contact Laena Shakarian, lshakarian@arcadiaca.gov.

Taking Back Our Community Membership



COALITION MEMBERS



As TBOC moves forward, we would like to hear back from members. If there are crime-victim stories from your community or updated statistics that you are willing to share with the group or even perhaps have featured in an upcoming marketing video, please let us know by forwarding an email to: Info@TakingBackOurCommunityCA.com.



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